

residual one shaft, based on predetermined powers input to and output from any two shafts among said three shafts;

storage battery means for supplying and receiving an electrical energy required for inputting and outputting power to and from said motor; and

braking control means for controlling said engine and said motor, based on a charging state of said storage battery means, in order to enable a braking force to be applied to said drive shaft.

3. (Twice Amended) A power output apparatus for outputting power to a drive shaft, said power output apparatus comprising:

an engine having an output shaft;

a motor having a rotating shaft and inputting and outputting power to and from said rotating shaft;

three shaft-type power input/output means having three shafts, including the output shaft and the rotating shaft, respectively linking said engine and said drive shaft, said three shaft-type power input/output means inputting and outputting power to and from a residual one shaft, based on predetermined powers input to and output from any two shafts among said three shafts;

storage battery means for supplying and receiving an electrical energy required for inputting and outputting power to and from said motor; and

braking control means for controlling said engine and said motor, based on a charging state of said storage battery means, in order to enable a braking force to be applied to said drive shaft, wherein said braking control means comprises means for enabling said motor to carry out a power operation, thereby applying a braking force to said drive shaft.

5. (Twice Amended) A power output apparatus for outputting power to a drive shaft, said power output apparatus comprising:

an engine having an output shaft;

a motor having a rotating shaft and inputting and outputting power to and from said rotating shaft;

three shaft-type power input/output means having three shafts, including the output shaft and the rotating shaft, respectively linking said engine and said drive shaft, said three shaft-type power input/output means inputting and outputting power to and from a residual one shaft, based on predetermined powers input to and output from any two shafts among said three shafts;

storage battery means for supplying and receiving an electrical energy required for inputting and outputting power to and from said motor; and

braking control means for controlling said engine and said motor, based on a charging state of said storage battery means, in order to enable a braking force to be applied to said drive shaft, wherein said braking control means comprises means for locking up said motor.

11. (Amended) A power output apparatus in accordance with claim 10, said power output apparatus further comprising:

driving state detection means for detecting a driving state of said drive shaft; and

braking-time driving state setting means for setting the [redetermined] predetermined operating condition based on the driving state of said drive shaft detected by said driving state detection means.

20. (Amended) A method of controlling a power output apparatus for outputting power to a drive shaft, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing (1) an engine having an output shaft; (2) a first motor having a rotating shaft and inputting and outputting power to and from said rotating shaft; (3) a second

motor for inputting and outputting power to and from said drive shaft; and (4) three shaft-type power input/output means having three shafts, including the output shaft and the rotating shaft, respectively linking said engine and said drive shaft, said three shaft-type power input/output means inputting and outputting power to and from a residual one shaft, based on predetermined powers input to and output from any two shafts among said three shafts;

(b) controlling said second motor, in order to enable said second motor to apply a braking force to said drive shaft; and

(c) controlling said engine and said first motor, in order to set a driving state of said engine to a predetermined operating condition.

22. (Amended) A power output apparatus for outputting power to a drive shaft, said power output apparatus comprising:

an engine having an output shaft;

a motor having a rotating shaft and inputting and outputting power to and from said rotating shaft;

three shaft-type power input/output means having three shafts, including the output shaft and the rotating shaft, respectively linking said engine and said drive shaft, said three shaft-type power input/output means inputting and outputting power to and from a residual one shaft, based on predetermined powers input to and output from any two shafts among said three shafts;

storage battery means for supplying and receiving an electrical energy required for inputting and outputting power to and from said motor; and

braking control means for controlling said engine and said motor, based on a charging state of said storage battery means, in order to enable a braking force to be applied to said drive shaft;

a remaining charge detection means that detects the remaining charge of the storage battery means; and

an engine driving means that drives said engine in a predetermined operating condition, which enables said motor to regenerate electric power, when the remaining charge of the battery is less than a predetermined threshold value.

23. (Amended) A method of controlling a power output apparatus, for outputting power to a drive shaft, having an engine with an output shaft, a motor with a rotating shaft, and a three shaft-type power input/output means having three shafts respectively, including the output shaft and the rotating shaft, linking said engine and said drive shaft, the method comprising:

inputting and outputting power to and from said rotating shaft;

inputting and outputting power, via the three shaft-type power input/output means, to and from a residual one shaft, based on predetermined powers input to and output from any two shafts among said three shafts;

supplying and receiving an electrical energy, from a storage battery means, required for inputting and outputting power to and from said motor;

controlling, using a braking controlling means, said engine and said motor, based on a charging state of said storage battery means, in order to enable a braking force to be applied to said drive shaft, and

enabling said motor to carry out a power operation, thereby applying a braking force to said drive shaft by means of said braking control means.

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are pending with claims 7-9, 11, 14, 16, 17, 19, 21, 24 and 25 allowed.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 11, 20, 22 and 23 are amended.